

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Legislative Session
December 12, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkesburg, PA.

President Cohn announced that an executive session was held at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and litigation.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin and President Cohn. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Solicitor Michael Witherel were also present. Mayor John Thompson was absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Montgomery – 1003 Savannah Ave. – Mr. Montgomery thanked those who participated in the meeting with PA DOT regarding the Ramp Metering Project. He is still following the issue and remains concerned. President Cohn commented on a letter he received from District Engineer Cessna. Ms. Marcinko explained the process for construction projects using federal funds.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2901 – Stop intersection at Biddle and Mifflin Avenues.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 2. Adopting Ordinance No. 2898 – Establishing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013.**

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Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Ms. Moore commented that the Borough has been operating under a tight budget and holding the line on expenses since 2004.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**3. Adopting Ordinance No. 2899 – Removing Handicap parking Space –
616 Hampton Avenue.**

Moved: Ms. Ervin

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**4. Approving Resolution No. 12-089 – Adopting the 2013 Municipal
Budget.**

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans,
President Cohn.

No: Ms. Macklin, Ms. Ervin and Ms. Trice.

During the voting, Ms. Macklin stated that she was voting against the budget as she noted that the projected year-end balance is approximately \$1,770,000 and that expenditures for 2013 exceed that amount by approximately \$470,000. She commented that the Borough has spent nearly \$4,000,000 of a fund balance which means that there will be a negative balance at the end of 2013. She further commented that she does not support several proposed new hires.

Mr. Lefebvre stated that the projected cash balance ending for 2012 was approximately \$200,000 and that the Borough will actually end the year with a balance well over one million dollars. He commented on the practice of conservative budgeting and that not all monies budgeted are expended. Mr. Lefebvre supports the hiring of additional personnel and commented that the hiring of professional management staff for departments has made a positive difference in Borough operations.

Ms. Ervin stated that she does not support the budget due to increased staffing proposed and the way in which the budget is set up.

Ms. Trice agreed with Ms. Ervin's comments.

Motion carried 6:3.

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President Cohn expressed his thanks to Ms. Marcinko and Finance Director David Egler for a well-prepared budget and stabilizing the Borough's financial condition over the past several years. He commented that there was not a need for many changes as the budget was thoughtfully prepared. He commented that much headway has been made under the current management team in stabilizing the Borough's financial position. He stated his agreement with Mr. Lefebvre that a conservative philosophy is used when preparing the budget and that the numbers can be misleading if you do not understand that philosophy. He commented that during Ms. Marcinko's tenure, the cash balance at year-end has consistently been considerably higher than projected. He commented on the ability to plan for the worst and work toward the best, which has been a successful strategy. He thanked Council and the Borough management team for their hard work. Ms. Marcinko stated that comments have been made over the past several years relative to spending a multi-million dollar fund balance. Ms. Marcinko advised that the Borough has never had such a fund balance. She agreed with Mr. Lefebvre's assessment of the budgeting strategy.

Ms. Macklin commented that she can only go by the numbers the Borough Manager and staff present. She believes that if it is anticipated that the Borough will not spend \$1.3 million, it gives the right to the Borough Manager and staff to spend the money. She hopes at year end that there is a balance in excess of \$471,000 and believes that should be reflected in the budget. She commented that budget preparation is not "guesstimating" but rather a message to the public as to where tax dollars will be spent. Ms. Marcinko commented that the municipal budget is a planning tool and Council's road map for the forthcoming year. The 2012 budget called for an ending fund balance of approximately \$200,000 and the actual ending balance will be closer to \$1.7 million. Ms. Marcinko commented that it is fiscally prudent to budget conservatively – revenues are budgeted on the low side, expenditures on the high side. She further clarified that monies which are not expended by year-end cannot be spent by her or other staff members. President Cohn commented that Borough Council has financial oversight.

5. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 11/14/2012 and 11/28/2012

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Ms. Trice questioned whether Council met on November 7, 2012. Ms. Marcinko advised that it was a budget work session.

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans and President Cohn

Abstain: Ms. Trice to the November 14, 2012 minutes.

Motion carried 8:0 with 1 abstention.

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6. Approving November Checks issued:

Regular Disbursements 11/01-11/30/12	\$1,345,799.41
Payroll Disbursements	246,333.70
Voided Checks	<u>-0-</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1,592,133.11

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans,
President Cohn

No: Ms. Trice, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Ervin

Motion carried 6:3

**7. Approving Resolution No 12-090 Setting employee contribution rate at
5.4% for the Police Pension Plan.**

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second: Ms. Evans

Ms. Macklin questioned who recommended the 5.4% rate. Ms. Marcinko advised that that is the current rate established by the Plan document. Ms. Marcinko commented that the need to establish the contribution rate annually, by resolution, is a requirement from the State Auditor General's Office.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**8. Approving Resolution No. 12-091 – Awarding Eastridge Library
Drainage Project to Lawson Excavating in the amount of \$33,585.**

Moved: Ms. Goodman

Second: Ms. Evans

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Macklin commented that the Borough recently purchased the property and that the sellers reduced the purchase price to cover a portion of the project costs. President Cohn advised that the closing on the property was held yesterday and he sees the property as a positive asset for the Borough. Ms. Moore commented that the branch library is located

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on Graham Blvd at Laketon. President Cohn commented that the Eastridge Branch has the highest circulation of any branch library in the County. Ms. Macklin commented that Ms. Moore serves on the Wilkinsburg Library Board.

Moved: Ms. Goodman

Second: Ms. Evans

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

9. Approving Resolution No. 12-092 – Establishing Meeting Schedule for 2013.

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

President Cohn stated that Council will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The legislative session will be held on the second Wednesday of the month, commencing at 7:00 p.m. The schedule will be published on the Borough website and in the Wilkinsburg Sun.

10. Approving Resolution No. 12-093 – Sponsoring Banners – Pittsburgh Urban Christian School.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

The banner will be posted for a time limit of three weeks.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – Appointments

President Cohn read aloud the resolutions for the Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1. Approving Resolution No. 12-094 – Reappointing Chelsea Burket– Community Art & Civic Design Commission.**
- 2. Approving Resolution no. 12-095 – Reappointing Bryan Grasso – Community Art & Civic Design Commission.**
- 3. Approving Resolution No. 12-096 – Reappointing Eugenia Moore – Library Board.**

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- 4. Approving Resolution No. 12-097 – Reappointing Dee Briggs – Planning Commission.**
- 5. Approving Resolution No. 12-098 – Reappointing Ralph Watson – Planning Commission.**
- 6. Approving resolution No. 12-099 – Appointing John Irwin – Pension Board.**

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second: Ms. Evans

Ms. Ervin questioned whether Resolution No. 12-099 had been previously tabled. Ms. Marcinko advised that it had not and that the matter was only discussed by Council at a prior meeting.

Yes: Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans and President Cohn

No: Ms. Trice to Resolution No. 12-099.

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – VPRP Applications

- 1. Approving Resolution No. 12-100 – Approving VPRP Application for 511 Lytle Way.**
- 2. Approving Resolution No. 12-101 – Approving VPRP Application for 1010 Center Street.**
- 3. Approving Resolution No. 12-102 – Approving VPRP Application for 818 Wallace Ave.**
- 4. Approving Resolution No. 12-103 – Approving VPRP Application for for 820 Wallace Ave.**
- 5. Approving Resolution No. 12-104 – Approving VPRP Application for 822 Wallace Ave.**
- 6. Approving Resolution No. 12-105 – Approving VPRP Application for 824 Wallace Ave.**

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**7. Approving Resolution No. 12-106 – Approving VPRP Application for
1012 Mill Street.**

Ms. Macklin commented that the Planning Commission has recommended approval of these applications to Council. Ms. Macklin commented that the applications are to develop parking areas and areas for green space. Ms. Moore commented on the nice workmanship on the new parking lot at North Avenue and Mill Street which was completed by Hosanna House.

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Moore expressed concern that there is only one person cleaning the building under the contract with the new cleaning company. Ms. Marcinko advised that the contract does not require a specific number of people be assigned to perform the obligations under the agreement.

Ms. Trice questioned the status of the issue she brought up regarding commercial vehicle parking on Laketon Road. President Cohn will mention the matter to Mayor Thompson and Chief Coleman. The parking is in violation of a Borough ordinance.

Ms. Ervin questioned whether the issue relating to the purchase of MDT's had been resolved. President Cohn advised that he will be meeting with the Police Department to discuss a number of issues. Ms. Ervin questioned whether the new police vehicles had been ordered. Ms. Marcinko responded that the cars have been ordered and the paperwork will be processed on 12/13/2012. Four vehicles were ordered. The purchase of the two SUV's still needs to be discussed.

Ms. Macklin commented on non-union, management employee contributions to health care costs. She stated that it appears the consensus of Council is to move forward and that the matter will be further discussed in executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President McCarthy-Johnson informed Council that a group of residents applied for a Kaboom Grant for Ferguson Playground and the application has been processed through to the first round. Deadlines are approaching and the application will need to be handled quickly by Council. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson will forward documents, plans and drawings to Council. Ms. Trice questioned whether the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is still meeting. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson advised that meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Evans informed Council that an application

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had previously been submitted to DCNR for improvements to Ferguson Playground and the funding required a local share. Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson informed Council that the project is community driven with support from Pittsburgh Urban Christian School and Wilkinsburg Family Support Center.

Ms. Moore announced that there is a toy give-away at Turner School being sponsored by Constable Alonzo Boyce for ages 6 months to 12 years. Santa will be there and all children will receive a free toy. The event will be held from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Trice announced that Patricia Wright passed away. She was active in the community at one time and was a long time resident. She is the former wife of Wilbert Wright.

President Cohn announced that Council will recess to executive session following the meeting.

Council recessed to executive session at approximately 750 p.m. Council came out of executive session at approximately 8:48 p.m. and the meeting was reconvened.

A motion was made by Mr. Lefebvre, second by Ms. Evans, to require employee contributions toward health care premium costs from all non-union, management and non-management, employees in accordance with the following schedule:

Family Coverage @ \$25.00/ pay per employee
2 Person Coverage @ \$20.00/ pay per employee
Individual Coverage @ \$10.00/ pay per employee

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, second by Mr. Lefebvre, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:52 PM.

Jason Cohn, Council President